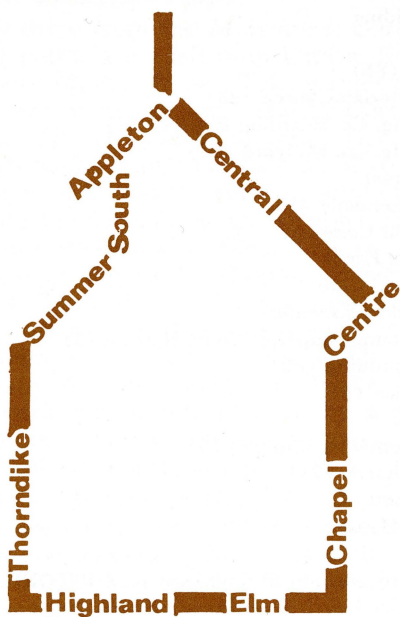


Walking Tours of LOWELL



South End

LANDMARKS

American House Hotel
Appleton Bank Block
Boston & Maine Railroad Terminal
Bradley Building
Chapel Hill
County Jail (85)
Eliot Presbyterian Church (88)
Hamilton Mfg. Co. Boarding Houses (84)
Hamilton Mfg. Co. Millyard (81)
Highland Street
C. I. Hood Company (86)
Hoyt & Shedd Company
Lowell House Hotel
Lowell Reform Club
Master Builders Exchange
Middlesex County Superior Court House (72)
New Fiske Building (80)
Old Post Office (82)
Painters Hall
St. Paul's Methodist Church (76)
St. Peter's Church (73)
South Common
Washington House

(—) refers to position of landmark on HISTORIC LOWELL map.

The Towers Corner

South End Walking Tour

"The Brown Tour"

DIRECTIONS

WALKING TO STARTING POINT

If you begin on foot at the *Merrimack Gatehouse*, walk down Shattuck Street to Middle Street. Proceed on Middle Street, turn right onto Central Street and continue to the corner of Warren Street.

DRIVING TO STARTING POINT

You may drive from the *Merrimack Gatehouse* to the starting point. Turn left onto Dutton Street, and left again onto Market Street. Take a right onto Central Street, and turn left onto Hurd Street (that is your second left off Central Street). Park your car in the Smith parking lot, and walk up Warren Street to Central Street. This is the starting point of the tour.

NOTE: The Smith parking lot occupies the site of the *Middlesex Woolen Company*. This complex was the only one of the twelve Lowell corporations to weave wool. They drew auxiliary power from the Locks & Canals system; their looms were powered by their own dam on the Concord River. The company suffered many financial setbacks. Unlike the other Lowell corporations, it was plagued by a history of bad management. The millyard was razed by the City in 1959 to build this parking lot.

Also, notice *Saint Paul's Methodist Church* (1839) (76) at the corner of Hurd and Warren Streets. This imposing Greek Revival edifice was built to replace an earlier church on Chapel Hill. One of the early pastors, Reverend Avery, was the subject of a vicious scandal. He was accused of adultery with a Miss Cornell who was later found strangled in Tiverton, Rhode Island. Reverend Avery was found innocent of the charges, but when he attempted to preach to his Lowell congregation, they tried to run him out of town on a rail. Failing that, they burned him in effigy.

Begin this tour at the intersection of Central and Warren Streets. At this corner note the building which is now a clothing store and a hairdressing studio. It was originally the *American House Hotel*, built to replace Frye's Tavern, part of which was moved to Chapel Hill. The top two floors of one section were removed in the 1950's.

Taverns in Lowell were rowdy places. An 1829 visitor described his stay at Frye's Tavern:

"Shown to the room (in the tavern) over the office or bar-room, as a sleeping room. I tried in vain to sleep. Night was made hideous by the disputes and wrangling of teamsters and loafers, who congregated underneath, no doubt incited by the dispensations from a well stocked bar."

In 1822 Irish laborers, who had walked to East Chelmsford from Charlestown, stopped here, where they were met by Kirk Boott who hired them to widen and rebuild the Pawtucket Canal. More Irish laborers soon followed and the Irish presence in Lowell was recognized.



Appleton Block c. 1893 City of Lowell

The *Appleton Bank Block*, is on your left, at the corner of Central and Warren Streets. This impressive building was constructed in the 1870's and was a marvel of its time — a masterful interpretation of the fashionable High Victorian Gothic style. Although a metal screen obscures the facade on Central Street, the original features may be seen on the Warren Street side. Note the Gothic pointed arch windows, and the use of strips of different colored brick, called polychromatic banding. Both are typical of this style. The Appleton Bank, in its time, was Lowell's largest bank. The most fashionable clothiers, shops and prominent lawyers shared space in this building.

The *Bradley Building* (Saab) opposite the Appleton Bank, was constructed in 1912 in an academic Baroque style.

Continue on Central Street.

The *New Fiske Building* (80) is on your right, at the corner of Central and Jackson Streets. It was built in the High Victorian Italian Gothic style during the boom years following the depression of 1873. The

unusual design of this magnificent building is much more playful and busy than the conservative Appleton Bank. Here, the ornamentation is three dimensional, giving the building a more excited look.

Behind the New Fiske Building, on Jackson Street, is *Major's Cafe* and *Painter's Hall* a charming building of the 1840's whose design is an odd mix of Gothic Revival and Greek Revival styles. The large complex is the *Hamilton Millyard* (81). It is covered in more detail on the "Canals and Mills Eastern Tour."

Return to Central Street.

The Rialto Bowling Lanes, on your left, was originally the old *Boston and Maine Railroad Terminal*. The terminal was built in 1876 and, although it has been substantially modernized, some of its original High Victorian Gothic style is still visible. The towers on either end have been removed.

The Boston and Maine offered competing services with the Boston and Lowell Railroad, even after the two companies were merged. This line and its terminal were abandoned. A new depot at the intersection of Middlesex and Thorndike Streets was built to replace it and the earlier Boston and Lowell Northern Depot. The New England Telephone Company occupied the same building for many years and, when they vacated it in 1913, it was converted to E.M. Loew's Rialto Theater.

Next to the terminal, on the corner of Green and Central Streets, is the *Union House Hotel*, now J.J. Turners Pub and Hotel. This was originally built before 1826 as a tavern and inn and was remodeled in the 1870's when the Mansard Roof was added. Benjamin Butler, the famous statesman, stayed here in 1829 when, upon the death of his father, he and his mother came to Lowell.

Bear right onto Gorham Street.



Post Office

c. 1893

City of Lowell

At the corner of Gorham and Appleton Streets is the *Old Post Office* (82). It was built in 1893 on the site of St. Peter's Church. The selection of a site generated a controversy that lasted many years. The advocates of this location, and the others who favored one on Merrimack Street, competed to raise money to purchase their site and later sell it to the Government for a nominal fee. The supporters of this location raised \$68,000 and sold it to the Government for 1 cent. Their opponents raised charges of ecclesiastical and political influence and the controversy raged long after construction was completed. The style is the fashionable Richardsonian Romanesque, and was designed by the Federal Government's architect William A. Freret.

On your left, facing Gorham Street, are three Federal style buildings of the 1820's (77-79). The third one (Boston Fish Market) was the *Lowell House Hotel*, later known as the Appleton House. It was a favorite of the passengers of the stagecoach lines.

Turn right onto Appleton Street.

Further ahead, on your left, opposite the Telephone Company is a *Hamilton Manufacturing Company Boarding House Block* (84). Built about 1845, these Greek Revival style houses were lodging for skilled workers.

Turn left onto South Street.

Turn right onto Summer Street.

The houses on your right were built in the late 1840's and 1850's. The second house on the right is Stick Style, so called because the abundance of thin vertical, horizontal, and diagonal moulding strips appear to represent the structural form of the building. The other houses are in the Romantic style architecture of the period. This was a fashionable neighborhood of middle and upper-middle class families.

The *South Common*, on your left, was purchased by the city in 1845 in the great Locks & Canals land sale, when the company divested itself of surplus real estate. The entire park was bought in one piece except for a single house on the eastern end. The wealthy owner refused to sell. In exasperation, the city built a fence around his house. Friends and relatives passed food through the slats. After nine years the owner relented and the city bought him out for \$3,500.

Nineteenth century planners seemed more occupied with curiosities of nature than with public need. The South Common was a rare double solution since this natural glacial bowl (now somewhat obscured by construction of a school, was a much needed open space facility. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the South End was predominantly Irish,

each hillock of the Common was the turf of emigrants and descendants of a particular county in Ireland. Woe to the man who dared cross county lines!

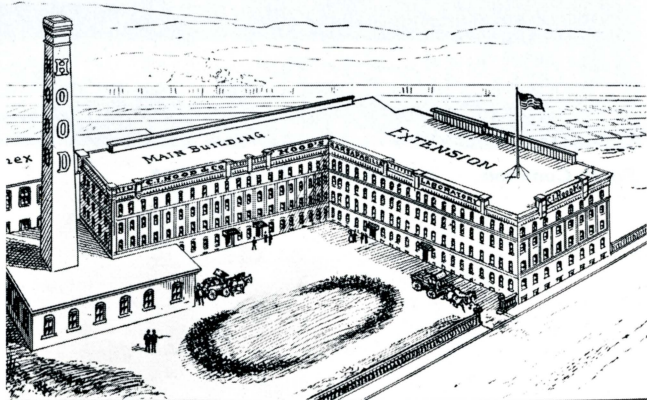
The *Eliot Presbyterian Church* (88), on your right, was built between 1873 and 1880 to replace an earlier structure on Appleton Street. It was originally Congregational and was named in honor of John Eliot, the minister, who later in the 1640's established a village of Christianized Indians on this site, called Wamesit. John Eliot also figured as a character in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, *The Scarlet Letter*.

A minor crisis ensued during construction of the church. It was discovered that the architect's original plan would cost \$75,000, but the budget was only \$45,000. Mr. Woodcock, the architect, was distraught. Cheaper materials were substituted and the size reduced a bit to produce this distinguished High Victorian Gothic church. This late 19th century church is an interesting contrast to the stern, functional, Greek Revival style South Congregational Meeting House on Merrimack Street, built forty years earlier. Puritanical Congregationalism had mellowed enough to allow such "popish" elements as Gothic architecture and stained glass windows.

Turn left and cross the corner of the South Common to Thorndike Street. The Commodore Ballroom, on your right, is a "Swing Era" dance pavillion.

On your right, is the plant and offices of the *C.I. Hood Company* (86), one of Lowell's famous nineteenth century patent medicine manufacturers. Hood was best known for his sarsaparilla and vegetable pills. One observer noted:

"The many and wonderful cures effected by Hood's Sarsaparilla have everywhere excited the attention and admiration of the medical profession. It is a highly concentrated extract prepared from Sarsaparilla,



C. I. Hood Complex

c. 1893

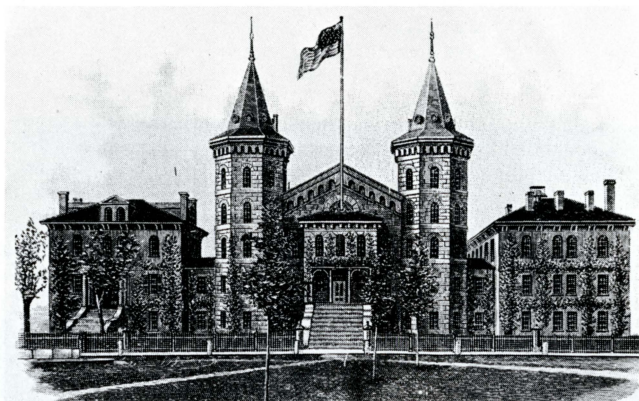
City of Lowell



South Common c. 1894 L. T. Karabatsos

Dandelion, Mandrake, Dock, Pipsisserva, Juniper Berries and other well known and valuable remedies."

Hood's advertising was the first to introduce multi-colored trading cards, the forerunners of baseball cards.



County Jail 1890 City of Lowell

Also on your right is the old *County Jail* (85). It was constructed in 1856 in the Lombard Romanesque style at a cost of \$150,000. The architect was J.H. Rand, a local sash and blind manufacturer. The jail was yet another object of great controversy. Cowley, a local historian, writing at the time of its construction thought:

"This senseless manner in which the County Commissioners wasted the people's money on this jail brought the 'ring' which has so long controlled our County affairs into disrepute."

C.C. Chase was equally enraged but more practical when he wrote twenty years later:

"This magnificent structure cost \$150,000.00 and contains 102 cells. If the annual rent of this building should be reckoned at 10% of its cost, and if every cell were constantly occupied, the average annual rent of a cell would be \$132.00. When to this is added the average cost of each occupant for food, salaries of officers, etc., the very lowest annual expense to the County of each prisoner is \$400. Thus a scoundrel who his family of six persons is fortunate enough to occupy a tenement whose annual rent is \$50.00 finds when he is so fortunate as to get into this magnificent jail, that the County lavishes upon him alone an expense which if bestowed upon his large and suffering family, would enable them to live almost in luxury. To squander money thus approaches very near a crime."

The wing on the left was the residence of the warden; the wing on the right housed female prisoners. The jail closed in 1926 and was later converted to Keith Academy, a Roman Catholic Boy's High School. It is now occupied by the YMCA.

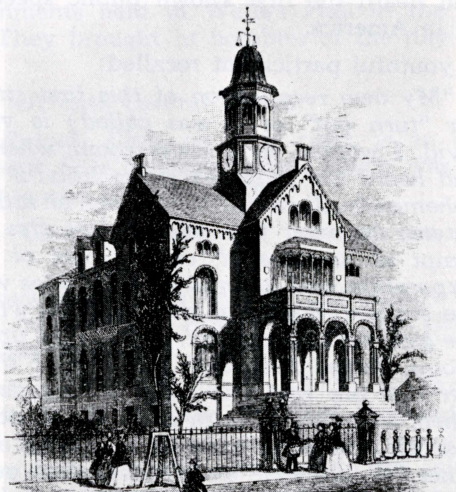
Turn left onto Highland Street.

The houses of *Highland Street* are justly famous for their beauty and grace. Built during the 1850's and 1860's, they are middle class and upper-middle class variations of the Italianate and Second Empire styled homes of the wealthy.

Down on your left, is *Saint Peter's Church* (73). Designed by P.C. Keely, of Brooklyn, New York, this Gothic church was built in 1903 to house Lowell's second oldest Catholic congregation. It replaced the first church taken for the new Post Office. Much of the construction work was done by the parishioners after a twelve-hour work day in the mills. The pastor, Fr. Michael Ronan, was a former mason and supervised much of the work.

Cross Gorham Street to Elm Street.

On your left is the *Middlesex County Superior Court House* (72). The rear portion is a magnificent Romanesque structure designed in 1850, by Ammi B. Young, architect. Once, when Daniel Webster was trying a case here, he quoted a couplet from Alexander Pope. Another lawyer questioned his rendition. During the ensuing argument someone produced a copy of the work. When Webster was found wrong he wrote on the flyleaf, "Spurious edition of Pope — Daniel Webster". In 1898, the original building was moved to the back of the lot and the new front wing was constructed in the Classical Revival style.



Middlesex County Courthouse

Lowell Historical Society

Because a Methodist chapel once stood here, this area of the South End was originally known as *Chapel Hill*. It is Lowell's oldest residential district, completely developed between 1820 and 1850 by shopkeepers and professionals who had come to serve the needs of Lowell's mill operatives. It is now the center of Lowell's Portuguese community whose culture is reflected in the homes, shops, and institutions.



Picanso Dry Goods c. 1910 Lowell Historical Society

The house on the right, at the far corner of Elm and Chapel Streets, is a portion of the Frye's Tavern mentioned at the beginning of the tour. This section was moved here to facilitate the construction of the American House Hotel.

In 1836, the Lowell Mill Girls "turned out" in protest against a reduction in pay and a rise in board costs. The women strikers marched here to Chapel Hill and heard the first known public speech by a woman in America.

One youthful participant recalled:

"My own recollection of this first strike (or "turn out" as it was called) is very vivid. I worked in a lower room, where I had heard the proposed strike fully, if not vehemently, discussed; I had been an ardent listener to what was said against this attempt at "oppression" on the part of the corporation, and naturally I took sides with the strikers. When the day came on which the girls were to turn out, those in the upper rooms started first, and so many of them left that our mill was at once shut down. Then, when the girls in my room stood irresolute, uncertain what to do, asking each other, "Would you?" or "Shall we turn out?" and not one of them having the courage to lead off, I, who began to think they would

not go out, after all their talk, became impatient, and started on ahead, saying, with childish bravado, "I don't care what you do, I am going to turn out, whether any one else does or not," and I marched out, and was followed by the others.

As I looked back at the long line that followed me, I was more proud than I have ever been since at any success I may have achieved, and more proud than I shall ever be again until my own beloved State gives to its women citizens the right of suffrage."

Turn left onto Chapel Street.

Note the large structure on your right, #80 Chapel Street. It was built in 1858 by the City as a primary school. The designer was Oliver E. Cushing and the style is the then popular Italianate. It later housed the C.P. Comerford Co., a wholesale coffee, tea and spice dealer.

The blue double house on your left is an example of a Greek Revival home of about 1840.

Turn right onto Centre Street. The architecture of nearly all the houses in this area is either Greek Revival or Federal. The house on your left is also Greek Revival. The columns and porch together is called a portico. The brick house next to it is Federal style and was probably built in the 1820's.

To your right, on the corner of Central and Centre Streets, is the *Italian American Citizens Club*. It was built in 1836 and for many years was *Scripture's Bakery*.

Across Central Street is the clubhouse of the *Lowell Reform Club*, now a Portuguese club. The Lowell Reform Club, was a local organization that supported itself exclusively by musical and theatrical entertainments held in Welle's Hall in the Welle's Block. They brought in notables of the day to perform.

Turn left onto Central Street.

The *Pulaski Club*, on your right, is an old fire department hose carriage house, which was moved to this site and rebuilt in 1879.

Cross Charles Street and continue on Central Street.

The newer buildings on your left occupy the site of the Lowell Opera House, one of the city's first major theatres.

On the corner of Appleton and Central Streets, on your left, is the *Master Builders Exchange*. Constructed in 1889, it housed an organization of master craftsmen from the building trades. In this galvanized iron facade structure they maintained their meeting rooms and library to further study their professions.

On the opposite corner, on your left, is the home of the *Hoyt and Shedd Company* another of Lowell's patent medicine manufacturers. They produced such things as Rubifoam, a tooth powder, and Hoyts German Cologne. Originally, they distributed bottled samples but when this proved too expensive, they advertised with scented trading cards. The building is from the 1880's and is in a popular commercial style. Of particular interest is the brick detailing.

On the far corner, on your right, on the site now occupied by the First Bank & Trust Co., stood Mixer's *Washington House*, a tavern and inn. Stagecoaches to Boston left from Mixer's and there was a rivalry between Mixer's and the Lowell House on Gorham Street for the traveling patrons. Both taverns papered the neighborhood with placards to attract the riders.

Continue on Central Street. Return to the starting point where the tour ends.

Will close on Thursday evening.

Siamese



TWINS.

The inhabitants of Lowell and its vicinity, are respectfully informed that this "Wonder of Nature," the

Siamese United TWINS,

will be in Lowell until Thursday evening, August 11, and that they will be happy to see company at the

WASHINGTON HOTEL,

from 10 to 12 A. M. and from 7 to 9 P. M. daily. To place it in the power of all to witness this great phenomenon, the admission will be reduced to

25 Cents each Person.

⚡ Their visit cannot be delayed beyond the above mentioned time, and all are requested not to delay.

Historical account of the TWINS, with full length portraits for sale at the Hall, 12 1-2 cts. each. Lowell, August 8, 1831.

Evangelist Office, Lowell

This tour was made available through a grant from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission and an appropriation from the Hapood Wright Centennial Fund by the Lowell Bicentennial/Sesquicentennial Commission. It was developed by Joseph R. Orfant, a graduate of Yale and former employee of the City Development Authority. He served as secretary of the Lowell Historical Commission and is presently employed as the National Register Editor for the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

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LOWELL